Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01026 01 OF 03 220454Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /122 W
----------079273 220549Z /20
O 220411Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0185
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01026 01 OF 03 220454Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 01026

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, XF
SUBJECT: LEBANON: SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS CONSULTATIONS ON
UNIFIL

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

1. SUMMARY. AT CONCLUSION OF SECURITY COUNCIL INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON UNIFIL LATE MARCH 21, SYG WAS AUTHORIZED TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY WITH HIS PLANS FOR ESTABLISHING UN FORCE ON THE BASIS OF TROOP CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NORWAY, NEPAL AND FRANCE, ALONG WITH IRANIAN CONTINGENT TEMPORARILY DETACHED FROM UNDOF. SOVIETS RAISED USUAL QUESTIONS ON SC APPROVAL LETTER BUT DID NOT OBJECT TO SYG'S PROCEEDING IMMEDIATELY, WITH TEXT OF LETTER TO BE WORKED OUT INFORMALLY OUTSIDE FULL SC CONSULTATIONS. KUWAITI AMB BISHARA WARNED THAT IF ISRAEL DOES NOT DISPLAY SERIOUSNESS ABOUT WITHDRAWAL AND THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, KUWAIT WILL CALL A MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 22. END SUMMARY.

2. AT SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS THE EVENING OF MARCH 21, SYG WALDHEIM STATED THAT THE CEASEFIRE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IS IN EFFECT AND THE FIGHTING HAS STOPPED. WALDHEIM REPORTED THAT HE HAD PHONED PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AT 1900 ON MARCH 20 AND HAD DISCUSSED A CEASEFIRE, THE WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS AND THE RETURN OF REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES. BEGIN SAID THAT HE WOULD INSTRUCT DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN TO IMPLEMENT AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE. BEGIN EXPRESSED ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON AND TO IMPLEMENT SC RES 425, AND HE SUGGESTED THAT GENERAL SIILASVUO AND WEIZMAN WORK OUT THE DETAILS OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 01026 01 OF 03 220454Z

UNIFIL ARRIVAL. BEGIN ALSO EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO LET THE REFUGEES RETURN TO THEIR HOMES.

3. WALDHEIM DISTRIBUTED TO COUNCIL MEMBERS A LETTER OUTLINING HIS EFFORTS TO PULL TOGETHER CONTINGENTS FOR UNIFIL. HE NOTED THAT NORWAY AND NEPAL HAD AGREED TO PROVIDE TROOPS, BUT ROMANIA HAD DECLINED. SENEGAL AND BOLIVIA HAD NOT YET REPLIED. WALDHEIM NOTED FRANCE'S OFFER OF A BATTALION AVAILABLE "FOR IMMEDIATE SERVICE." WALDHEIM REFERRED TO HIS EARLIER REPORT ON USING AUSTRIAN AND SWEDISH COMPANIES FROM UNDOF AND UNEF. SINCE THESE GOVTS HAD NOT YET FORMALLY AGREED, HE HAD ALSO ASKED IRAN TO ASSENT TO USE OF ITS CONTINGENT ALREADY IN THE MIDDLE EAST (WITH UNDOF) TO SERVE TEMPORARILY AS AN ADVANCE GUARD FOR UNIFIL. IRAN HAD AGREED AND WALDHEIM EXPECTED AN ANSWER FROM SWEDEN ON MARCH 22 AND FROM AUSTRIA SOME TIME LATER.

4. WALDHEIM STRESSED THAT THE LEBANESE WANT THE FIRST UNIFIL CONTINGENTS IN PLACE WITHIN THE NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS. HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED A TWO-PHASE OPERATION. THE NORWEGIAN, FRENCH AND NEPALESE CONTINGENTS, SOME OF

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

WHICH COULD BE AVAILABLE VERY QUICKLY, WOULD BE MOVED TO
THE AREA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. OFFER OF OTHER FORCES
THAT WOULD PROVIDE THE NORMAL GEOGRAPHIC BALANCE
(PRESUMABLY BOLIVIAN AND SENEGALESE CONTINGENTS) COULD
BE IN HAND IN ONE OR TWO WEEKS TIME, AS SOON AS THEIR
GOVERNMENTS HAVE GRANTED CONSENT. WALDHEIM NOTED THAT
THE IRANIAN COMPANY CAN BE TRANSFERRED FROM THE GOLAN
TO THE LITANI RIVER BY MARCH 22 TO TAKE UP POSITIONS
ALONG FOUR CROSSING POINTS OF THE LITANI RIVER.
WALDHEIM ALSO NOTED THAT ISRAEL HAS GRANTED PERMISSION
TO UNTSO OBSERVERS ALREADY IN THE AREA TO MOVE FREELY
AND TO TAKE UP POSITIONS AT THE CROSSING POINTS ALONG
THE LITANI RIVER.

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PAGE 04 USUN N 01026 01 OF 03 220454Z

4A. US AMB LEONARD EXPRESSED FULL AGREEMENT WITH SYG
ON NEED TO GET UN FORCES INTO PLACE URGENTLY. HE

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01026 02 OF 03 220519Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01
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Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 01026

REITERATED US PREPAREDNESS TO PROVIDE AIRLIFT FOR
UNIFIL CONTINGENTS AS NEEDED AND POINTED OUT US WAS
ALSO PROVIDING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO RELIEF EFFORT
IN LEBANON.

5. CZECHOSLOVAKIAN AMB HULINSKY WONDERED ABOUT THE
INCLUSION OF FORCES OF A PERMANENT MEMBER OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL, SINCE THEY WERE "NOT GENERALLY USED".
HE QUIBBLED MILDLY ABOUT PROPER "GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION".
WALDHEIM AND UK AMB RICHARD POINTED TO THE UK PARTICI-
PATION IN UNFICYP AS PRECEDENT, AND THE FRENCH OFFER
WAS SUPPORTED BY GABON, INDIA, FRG, CANADA, MAURITIUS,
VENEZUELA AND PARTICULARLY BY KUWAIT. WALDHEIM NOTED
THAT A MEMBER (ROMANIA) OF ONE GROUP HAD DECLINED TO
PROVIDE TROOPS TO UNIFIL. IT WAS UP TO ANY OTHER MEMBER
TO OFFER IF IT WISHED TO PARTICIPATE.

6. KUWAIT AMB BISHARA STRONGLY EXPRESSED THE HOPE
THAT QUIBBLING OVER THE PRINCIPLE OF GEOGRAPHIC DISTRI-
BUTION WOULD NOT HAMPER THE DISPATCH OF TROOPS. HE
SAID IT WAS "IMPERATIVE" IN THE VIEW OF THE ARAB GROUP
TO DISPATCH UNIFIL TROOPS TO THE AREA AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE, AND HE HOPED THAT THE IRANIAN TROOPS WOULD BE
DEPLOYED ON MARCH 22. BISHARA SAID THAT IT WAS THE
UNDERSTANDING OF THE ARAB GROUP THAT ISRAEL WOULD BEGIN
ITS WITHDRAWAL IN A "FEW HOURS," AND HE WARNED THAT IF
ISRAEL DID NOT DISPLAY "SERIOUSNESS" ABOUT WITHDRAWAL
AND THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES, KUWAIT WOULD CALL A
SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MARCH 22 AND TAKE "DRASTIC

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

MEASURES." HE STRESSED THAT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL SHOULD
NOT BE CONTINGENT ON THE INTRODUCTION OF UN TROOPS.
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PAGE 03 USUN N 01026 02 OF 03 220519Z

BISHARA REFERRED TO THE ISRAELI ADVANCE TO THE LITANI
AFTER THE ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 425 AS "DEFIANCE" AND
AN "INTOLERABLE DISPLAY OF ARROGANCE." HE HOPED
THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE
FURTHER DETAILS ON THE ISRAELI ACCEPTANCE OF THE RETURN
OF REFUGEES.

7. USSR AMB TROYANOVSKY ALSO STRESSED THAT
ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL SHOULD NOT BE CONTINGENT UPON THE
INTRODUCTION OF UN TROOPS, AND HE RAISED THE USUAL
PROCEDURAL POINT. TROYANOVSKY ASKED RICHARD WHETHER
HE PLANNED TO SEND LETTER TO SYG ON QUESTION OF COM-
POSITION. RICHARD SAID THAT HE SO PLANNED LEVEL THAT
LETTER WOULD NOTE INFO SUPPLIED BY SYG AND INDICATE
COUNCIL DESIRE HE SHOULD PROCEED ALONG SAID LINES.
TROYANOVSKY SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE A TEXT AND THOUGHT
TEXT SHOULD INDICATE SC "AGREED" TO SYG'S SUGGESTIONS.
RICHARD SAID DRAFTING OF LETTER COULD TAKE PLACE AT
SUBSEQUENT TIME AND HE TOOK IT NO ONE HAD ANY PROBLEM
WITH SYG'S MOVING AHEAD AS DESCRIBED WITHOUT WAITING
FOR RECEIPT OF LETTER IF THAT ACCEPTABLE TO SYG. SYG
SAID THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM AND NO ONE OBJECTED.

8. AFTER CONSULTATIONS ENDED, RICHARD MET WITH TROY-
ANOVSKY, WHO WAS ASSISTED BY SHEVCHENKO. MISOFF
(ROSENSTOCK) JOINED DISCUSSION. TROYANOVSKY, AFTER
BRIEFING BY HIS AIDES AND SHEVCHENKO, PRESSED FOR
EXPRESS STATEMENT THAT SC "AGREED" TO SYG'S SUGGESTIONS.
MISOFF STATED THAT IN OUR VIEW NO LETTER WAS REQUIRED
AT ALL. RICHARD SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY
TO FINISH DRAFTING THAT TONIGHT AND AGREED TO BE BACK
IN TOUCH WITH TROYANOVSKY MARCH 22.

9. UK IS AWARE THAT SINCE SYG IS GOING AHEAD WITHOUT
LETTER AND SOVIETS HAVE VIRTUALLY DEALT THEMSELVES OUT
OF THE OPERATION, TO WHAT APPEARS TO BE INTENSE ANNOY-
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PAGE 04 USUN N 01026 02 OF 03 220519Z

ANCE OF SOME ARABS INCLUDING BISHARA, THERE IS NO NEED
TO HURRY TO AGREE TO SOVIET DESIRE TO EMPHASIZE THE

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01026 03 OF 03 220528Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01026 03 OF 03 220528Z

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 03 OF 03 USUN NEW YORK 01026

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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ROLE OF SC VERSUS THAT OF SYG. LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUILDUP
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
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Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3232335
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANON: SECURITY COUNCIL HOLDS CONSULTATIONS ON UNIFIL
TAGS: PORG, MARR, XF, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dc471fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Sheryl P. Walter
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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